

## Environmental and Social Standards Task Force (ESSTF)

Second Meeting – March 19, 9 am EDT

Attendees:

Katie Mathias (CFA)  
Scott Lampman (USAID)  
Camila Monteiro (Individual)  
Sean Nazerali (BIOFUND, Mozambique)  
Sebastian Spitzer, KfW

Kathy Mikitin (Individual, Task Force facilitator)

The first meeting of the Task Force brought together part of the core group of members. Unfortunately KfW, CI and the CBF were unable to attend, in part due to not having received the broadcast announcement of the meeting. From now on, a direct reminder will be sent to each TF member so all will have the call-in information. That will NOT exclude others who wish to join or attend. Broadcast reminders from the CFA will be sent periodically.

For the purpose of communications and standardization throughout the TF's work, we will use the term "CTF" to refer to the Environmental Funds and Conservation Trust Funds. When there is a 'product' on the horizon, we will review terminology.

The main topic of discussion was the TOR and path forward for the group. There was a general consensus that the tasks at hand require the TF to.

- Compile information on what has been done and by whom. This will entail reaching out to the CTFs themselves in order to be well-informed about completed and ongoing work on ES principles/policies being applied, the drivers behind the work done or ongoing, what areas are being addressed (standards adopted) and the tools and human resources required. A short survey that can be sent out by the three Regional Networks is the likely tool for a first pass-through.
- Determine what works and in what situation. The group will review the experience of CTFs and other members of the community of practice that have already put a framework in place to identify effective practices, challenges and failures. CTFs can be asked to share
- Outline what a framework will look like. Identify the components of a framework that will best serve the core business of CTFs but take into account the diversity of context, clients and means. Adoption of the framework should allow donors to "check the box" that indicates their requirements are met.
- Develop the basic components of a model framework. A decision will need to be taken about how development of the framework will be carried out. If the TF is able to

complete a model on the basis of what exists already, that would be ideal. However, the knowledge and level of effort required may argue for engaging an expert to take the task to completion. If there is need for an expert or follow-up activities (see below), a source of funding will need to be identified.

The overall objective of the TF's work is to define the practical framework that balances donor requirements, good risk management practice and the limited means of many EFs/CTFs. The target beneficiaries are likely to be EFs/CTFs with all or a part of their operations focused on making grants to third parties who then execute the activities or projects financed by the EF/CTF.

Contributions from TF members which should be kept in mind in the course of the ESSTF's work:

- The size of the CTF itself and of its projects or activities that might require an ESMF must be taken into account in our work: donors' current standards are designed for large and complex projects and often difficult to interpret and apply to the types of projects and activities supported by CTFs. *A menu of actions based on the scale of CTFs may be a solution for the TF to consider.*
- CTFs who have not faced an ESMF requirement are probably not prepared for the complexity of donor requirements. *Thinking ahead, whatever product the TF may come up with, it should be accompanied with good guidance on its use and capacity building for CTF and possibly the community of practice at large.*
- RedLAC and CAFÉ could provide opportunities to consult on the products of the TF's work or even to begin a rollout. *This means that work should be well-advanced for the August 31-September 4 RedLAC Assembly in Costa Rica and the September 21-25 CAFÉ Assembly in Mozambique.*

The TF agreed that it will employ its best efforts to meet every two weeks. Thursdays appear to be the best option. 9 am EDT works, but varying the time in alternate weeks may be necessary to accommodate certain time zones.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, March 19 at 9 am EDT.